of Catherine's works and revelations, which, till then, had been keeping his mind in suspense : [ff] for I remembered that it was now the time of that third beast with the leopard's skin, by which is signified hypocrisy, and in my days I had met with hypocrites, especially among women, who are more easily and readily seduced by the Enemy, as is shown in the case of our first Mother." At her intercession, he obtained a mental vision of his own sins so clear, and a contrition so overwhelming, that he was convinced could proceed from nothing save from the grace of the Holy Spirit. A little later, when he doubted again of the truth of what she was revealing to him, he saw her face transformed into the face of Christ, and experienced a wonderful illumination of mind concerning the matter of which she spoke.[1] Nevertheless, the good father, who, like Dante, " *seco* avea di quel d'Adamo," was still unable always to follow her etherial flights, and he confesses it with some little humour. On one occasion, when she was discoursing at great length upon the divine mysteries, he fell asleep : " But she, who, while she thus spoke, was all absorbed in God, went on with her discourse for a long time before she perceived that I was asleep. At last she noticed it, and then woke me up by saying with a loud voice : ' Ah, why do you lose your soul's profit by sleeping ? Am I talking about God to a wall or to you ?' "

Montepulciano lay close to the fiefs of the rebellious Salimbeni, but it seems more probable that Catherine's relations with that family belong to a later epoch in her life. Nor do I think that her mediation in the local feuds and dissensions should be assigned to this date. She appears to have been ill with fever during most of this visit to the monastery of Santa Agnese, and, as soon as was possible, she probably returned to Siena.

In spite of the pestilence, the war between the Republic and the Salimbeni had continued. In October, the latter, in a sudden sally from their beleaguered fortress of Boccheggiano, completely defeated the Sienese forces, although outnumbered by nearly three

[1] *Legenda,* I. ix. 6, 7 (§§ 87-91). **Cf.** *Par.* xxvii. 105, where Dante says of Beatrice : " che Dio parea nel suo volto gioire."